

MBMBaM 704: Cheques Mix

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Griffin: Okay! Here's the situation. Justin went away on a week's vacation and he left the keys to the brand-new Porsche. Would they mind? Well, of course not.

Travis: We have a Porsche?

Griffin: Ju— We have one Porsche that we share... Yes. Maybe I shouldn't say that we have a Porsche.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: In MaxFunDrive epi—

Travis: It's old. It's a old—

Griffin: Old, busted.

Travis: Oh, ewww.

Griffin: Yucky Porsche, it smells like old hamburgers.

Travis: Awww.

Griffin: If we're gonna afford—

Travis: Powered by old hamburgers.

Griffin: If we're gonna get a new Porsche that's not powered by new hamburgers, we need your support in the MaxFunDrive, but that's not why Travis and I are here to talk to you. Justin is travelling this week.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: We recorded this episode a while ago and realized, to our horror, that Justin had messed up his recording.

Travis: Some audio issue— Let's put it a little more political. There were some audio issues.

Griffin: There were some audio issues. Our editor Rachel has gone through with fine tooth comb, and it sounds much, much better.
[chuckles]

Travis: So much better.

Griffin: Than it did, and much, much better than it would have without the support and dedicated, hard work of Rachel, our editor, who we were able to hire because of the MaxFunDrive.

So this is our last week of that and we're gonna talk about it a lot in this episode, so we'll— we won't belabor the point. But just wanted to give you a heads up and explain a little bit.

Travis: Now, on with the magic!

Intro (Bob Ball): The McElroy Brothers are not experts, and their advice should never be followed. Travis insists he's a sexpert, but if there's a degree on his wall, I haven't seen it. Also, this show isn't for kids, which I mention only so the babies out there will know how cool they are for listening. What's up, you cool baby?

[theme music, "My Life (Is Better With You)!" by Montaigne plays]

Justin: Hello everybody and welcome to *My Brother, My Brother & Me*, an advice show for the modern era. I'm your oldest brother, Justin. Tyler. McElroy.

Travis: What up? ... Trav Nation.

Griffin: Ho.

Travis: It's me, your middlest brother, Travis "the Exalted" McElroy.

Griffin: Okay. And I'm your sweet baby brother, Griffin McElroy.

Travis: That's just my middle name! I don't know what you want me to say!

Griffin: We've... fucked up.

Travis: Oh no.

Griffin: We're recording this... a full ass week before this episode goes up. I like to have— You know we usually record the morning of the show, when it goes up, so we can cover like weekend news.

Travis: Yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah.

Griffin: And like big stuff like that. We're a week out and it's the MaxFunDrive. We have no idea... News and also what level of desperation we need to bring.

Justin: Right.

Griffin: To this second week... altar call for the MaxFunDrive.

Travis: We should just do— You're right. We'll do two takes. Justin, give me utmost desperation.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then Griffin, give me kind of like a too cool for school, I don't really need this kind of feeling.

Justin: Can we switch? I'd rather be too cool for school.

Travis: No, I think Justin, you try utmost desperation 'cause—

Griffin: I feel like I would be better at desperation. Just like based on my track record.

Travis: Hey, guys. I cast this not based on what you think you are.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: But what I know you are.

Griffin: Fair. Okay, fine.

Justin: I'm just saying, my dating career in high school proves that my desperate like state.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: Is not an appealing one.

Griffin: Yeah. And I don't even know how to pretend to be like a cool guy.

Travis: Do you want me to just do both? Guys.

Griffin: No, it's fine. Alright, who goes first?

Travis: Let's see Justin's first.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Hey. Hey. Um... So this is the MaxFunDrive, it's supposed to be.

Griffin: [chuckles quietly]

Justin: We thought it was, but apparently you... didn't. Ha ha. Yeah. Um... It feels good to laugh. There hasn't been much of that our way lately. Uh...

Griffin: Because of how shitty it's been.

Justin: 'Cause it's been—

Griffin: For the Drive, you mean.

Justin: — really, really sad how few of you... have turned out for us.

Griffin: We've got nine total, and so far it's the three of us, and our dad six times.

Justin: Now why are you desperate?

Travis: Yeah, you're not desperate. This is Justin's pitch.

Griffin: I thought we were building the— Okay, sorry.

Travis: No no no.

Griffin: It's two different, gotchu, gotchu.

Justin: So anyway, we're fucked. And um... I just wanted to say please, if you could go to maximumfun.org/join, and find it in your heart to just give us \$5 over and over again, forever that would be so cool of you. And it really does help to support the show. We need it just to make ends meet, and [chuckles] none of you are doing it, and it's so hurtful.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And thank you very much for your time, if anyone is actually listening to this, which I am not convinced of.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: [slow claps]

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: That good?

Travis: That was wonderful, Justin.

Griffin: I mean Travis is slow clapping, so it must've been pretty cool. Alright my—

Travis: I wanna say, if you're watching I believe Dick Wolf, creator of *Law & Order*.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And the *Law & Order* franchise.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: How come you never have like good cop, pitiful desperate cop?

Griffin: "Pleeease?"

Travis: Where it's just like, "Hey man, can I get you some coffee?"
"And also if— Could you just tell us if you did it?"

Griffin: "Just say you did the crime."

Justin: "I'm Officer Needs One, and what I'm sayin' is..."

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: "I could really use one."

Travis: "It'd help me— I'm one case solving away from retirement. They [chuckles] won't let me retire!"

Justin: "I'm not doin' so good." [wheezes]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: [wheezes]

Justin: "I'm um... not doin' so hot lately."

Griffin: Alright, let me try mine.

Travis: Okay. Too cool.

Griffin: [chuckles] What's up, jabronies? It's Monday March—

Justin: Sorry, what did you say?

Griffin: What's up, jabronies? It's Monday, March 25th, and crazy weekend of news. And I— [wheezes]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [snorts] Just wanna say we are sittin' pretty in the MaxFunDrive at 80,000 members. Huge overshooting of our goals! And so I'm gonna say— Don't get me wrong, you get incredible bonus content if you join us—

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: — at a \$5 a month level, and it changes our lives, it allows us to do the work we do and expand and make new stuff. Do video stuff, hire people to help us make our stuff, it's all been amazing.

But we're at 80,000 members now, and so we are sitting pretty. This is a bit, please still go to maximumfun.org/join 'cause we do need the help. But we're sittin' pretty, jabronies, so—

Travis: We're pretty jabronies over here.

Griffin: We're all pretty jabronies over here. MaximumFun.

Travis: We got the ring.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: We got the crown. We got the wand.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I passed the black ring over to Justin, and now we're pretty pretty jabronies.

Griffin: And this is the happy— the first happiness I've felt in my life! [imitates illusion disappearing sound effect] Don't you wanna make us like that?

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Whoaaaaa.

Griffin: Don't you wanna make us like that?

Justin: Are you happy we were happy?

Griffin: Maximumfun.org/join. We're goofin' around here but it really is important.

Travis: We're not really jabronies.

Griffin: We're not really jabronies, we're— we are pretty. But.

Justin: I'm soaked over here, guys.

Griffin: I assumed, Justin.

Justin: With that spit take.

Griffin: It is—

Justin: I've never actually done that in real life, it sucks. They don't tell you about the repercussion of—

Griffin: Your shit's all wet, yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, everything's wet, it sucks.

Griffin: Listen. It's our last week of doing this, and then we'll leave you alone for the rest of the year.

Justin: Promise.

Travis: Well not alone, we'll still make the show.

Griffin: We'll still make the show, and like we'll ask you to do us stuff sometimes, but like. Just like friends—

Justin: Like friends, yeah.

Griffin: Like regular friend stuff. But it really, if you go to maximumfun.org/join, if you have— Maybe you've been listening to this show for fuckin' 14 years and you've never joined the network. Maybe think about that— how much we've been— How much joy we've brought.

Justin: Mm.

Griffin: Into your— How many times we've made you moisten your desk with wet laughter.

Justin: Maybe you're feelin' guilty about it and you didn't even know.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: That's been the one thing holding you back.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Is the subconscious guilt you felt, and I want you to be free of that. I want this for you.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: I want you to have the satisfaction of knowing that you supported people makin' stuff that you like.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: This is a selfless act.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's for you.

Travis: To kick it off, this episode, little different, little change here.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Okay. Chilling.

Travis: This is one of my classic ice breaker, thought starters, getting to know you.

Griffin: Oh cool.

Travis: Right?

Griffin: Yeah, we definitely need those.

Travis: This is from Fillet Minion, in I'm gonna say Worcester, Massachusetts? Anyway, doesn't matter.

"I think— Would you settle an argument. I think that Minions would taste like lamb. My friend says crocodile, but my wife says flan." Or flan. "So, once and for all, what does a Minion taste like?"

Griffin: And how would you prepare one. Is the—

Travis: Well, I mean, I would eat 'em alive.

Griffin: Umm.

Travis: So that I could really enjoy it.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, you got to. This is weird. This is weird. It's weird that you included this, it's weird that someone asked this and wanted to know this. I'm not saying we won't do it, 'cause like...

Travis: Well I just thought the answer was so obvious.

Justin: I don't—

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: But okay, and also don't say banana.

Travis: No, not banana.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: Twinky. I look at that motherfucker, that's an orange— that's a yellow sponge cake.

Griffin: He's got cre— He's got cweme [chuckles] inside there.

Travis: Well.

Griffin: Is what you're saying.

Travis: We don't need to go that far.

Griffin: If Gru was to snap a Minion over his knee, there would be... an explosion of cweme, is what you're saying.

Travis: Yeah, and explosion of cweme. I'm saying you look at a picture of Twinky the Kid side by side with a Minion.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: There's an evolutionary chart there.

Griffin: I think that could be good. I like flan.

Justin: When I look at them, they feel gummy. It feels like it would be a gummy like— Like in Willy Wonka when you're eatin' the flowers and stuff, and it'll look kinda good.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: But still, you're eatin' flowers.

Travis: Mm.

Justin: Like I feel like the— this would be kind of like that.

Griffin: I think—

Justin: Very gummy, dense, chewy, fruity.

Travis: Oh yeah.

Griffin: I think any suggestion of the sponginess or gumminess of these... beings is an insult to the acumen and ability of Gru as a mad scientist. These are service workers, they do hard and dangerous work, for Gru's like—

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: — evil machinations and plans. I think that they are a perfectly tubular, capsule-shaped, 250lb solid loaf of fuck muscle.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: I think these fuckin' guys— I think if you ran up to a Minion and are like, "Banana" and you tried to push him over, you would actually fall down backwards.

Travis: Now, okay Griffin. I understand your point, and it's very well-made, especially the fuck muscle part.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah.

Travis: But wouldn't you want them to be incredibly not just solid but resilient.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Because I would argue, I'm looking at a picture of one right now, who knows which one, maybe Bob, maybe Frank, maybe Steven.

Marshmallow peep is really ringing true in my head, because you could put that through so much squishing and squashing and stretching and strotching, and still have a working Minion at the end of it.

Griffin: Yeah, that would also be true though... if he was 250lb capsule-shaped fuck muscle.

Travis: I— Like—

Griffin: You couldn't do any of that stuff.

Travis: A one-foot tall, [chuckles] 250lb.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Capsule of fuck muscle.

Griffin: Justin.

Justin: So you think that Gru is constantly like debating with himself, like, “I don’t— I want to work them extremely hard at crime, but if they do it too much, they’ll be too sinewy—”

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: “— to consume in a pleasurable way.”

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It must be hard to— for him to decide [chuckles] when it’s time to eat one.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah. No, for sure. I think—

Travis: [imitating Gru from *Despicable Me*] “Hey everybody, you did a great job this weekend, but one of you... fell behind!”

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: “So maybe getting a little too old. You come inside with me. We have dinner together!” I don’t know where Gru’s from or how to do the accent, but.

Griffin: Here’s what I think is like I think he takes one in, maybe it died in the line of duty. And that happens a fucking lot—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: — in those *Despicable Me* movies and we don’t talk about that.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Well it’s a Minion.

Justin: Well it doesn’t—

Travis: Like one hit.

Justin: It doesn't— No no no. It does happen in *Despicable Me* movies, it does not happen in *Minions* movies.

Griffin: You're right, sure. I got confused.

Justin: That is a very— They draw a line, like, "No no no, they're people now. For a little bit, they're people."

Griffin: I—

Justin: "So you should be sad that they died."

Griffin: I think he takes one of his fallen comrades, with help from two other Minions, because they heavy, and takes 'em into his dining room.

Travis: He ain't heavy.

Griffin: He's a Minion, he is heavy, also.

Travis: Oh, right.

Griffin: And he— they lay him on a table, he says [imitating Gru] "You're excused," [normal] and the other Minions leave. And then he just cuts in there, and guys, I think it's like basically a beef wellington in there.

Travis: Oh, you think?

Griffin: I think if you cut out a round of Minion, it is— it's just— There's a pastry crust, a duxelles, uh... I think that it's poppin', actually.

Travis: I wouldn't be surprised if, in the beginning, and don't let the *Minions* movies rewrite the truth, he just had one big, long Minion.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah.

Travis: And as it took hits, it just kept splitting into smaller and smaller pieces.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And they grew eyes and just kept going.

Griffin: It'd be cool if they just had an extruder, a Minion extruder.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: At first, he had like a 36-foot-tall Minion. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. [chuckles]

Justin: I can't get past the idea of an edible shell. I don't think they would have an edible shell.

Travis: Mm!

Justin: I think it would be like you crack it open.

Travis: A rind?

Justin: A rind, a rind, yeah.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: Like a rind that you have to get through to get the meat in the inside.

Travis: Protective, yeah.

Griffin: That's cool. That's cool. I hated this question, but then I liked it when we started talking about it, so that's cool.

Travis: I knew we'd get there.

Griffin: Yeah. That kicks ass.

Travis: And I think we helped some people.

Griffin: How about another question?

Justin: Yeah. Here we go. This one is this. "I mentioned to a coworker that I was looking at mountain biking shoes. I was doing this because I like shoes, they were cute."

Travis: Mm.

Justin: "And my boyfriend is a biking fiend, so I might go biking with him, 'might' being a bit optimistic. I did not realize at the time my coworker loves to mountain bike."

Travis: Uh-huh.

Justin: "My coworker now believes that I love mountain biking and needs to hear about all his mountain biking plans. He even sent me a video of his kid riding a bike."

Griffin: Awesome.

Justin: "How do I make the mountain biking madness stop?" That's from Plagued by Pedals in Provo.

Travis: Was the kid doing something cool? Or was it just like, "That's what it looks like." [chuckles]

Griffin: If you're—

Travis: I'm confused.

Griffin: If you're riding a bike on a mountain, that's pretty cool.

Justin: It is cool. 'Cause you shouldn't be.

Griffin: I've never seen a video of someone riding a bike on a mountain and been like, "Yawn."

Travis: The only—

Griffin: It's not where bikes belong.

Travis: I will say, when you see the video of the bike and it's like, somehow they've found a mountain that's about three inches wide.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And they're like riding the tiniest trail, kinda hopping from rock to rock.

Griffin: Scary. Scary shit.

Travis: That— I look at that and I think "We don't have to do everything."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Like if I started to do that, you guys would be like, "Whoa, impulse control, Travis."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "That's a first thought. What about a second thought?"

Griffin: When I see clips—

Travis: But Travis Pastrana does it.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: And you're like, "Yes, that Travis."

Griffin: That Travis should do it.

Travis: I'm just saying guys, I've got some stuff I need to work through.
[chuckles]

Griffin: When I see people and usually in sort of like a Red Bull skills competition.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: And they're hopping their bike between these narrow spires, these columns of red stone in the desert, a million feet high.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: And they're just hopping down it and making it look cool and easy, I think how does someone get good at that?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: 'Cause it seems like a— Maybe this is a survivorship bias situation. [chuckles] Where there's lots of videos of people goin' "I'm gonna do my silly hops down these spires on my bike. Oh no!" And those don't make it onto TikTok.

Or they don't last very long on there if they do. What we do see is the one guy who's like, "Oh, thank Christ. Thank Christ, I did the hops. Please don't make me do it again."

Travis: "Oh, thank God."

Griffin: Justin, you lookin' at cool mountain biking videos? 'Cause I see your eyes flicking across the screen, looking for like dope thumbnails of people doing like wingsuit tricks and—

Justin: No, I just didn't have anything to add at that exact moment.

Travis: I— You know, have you guys ever seen the might— the bikes that have the pedals where your feet like lock into them?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Like you're wearing the shoes that lock in. You don't do that for mountain biking, right? 'Cause that's a huge— You're committing to if this bike goes down, I'm goin' down, right?

Griffin: Or if I go down, the bike is going down.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: With, on top, towards, inside me, yeah. No joke. Yeah I—

Justin: But how do you get— How do you dis— I mean. [sighs] Maybe just kinda—

Travis: You just— No.

Griffin: Come on, no no no. Let him— There's something cookin' inside of Justin's—

Justin: I'm struggling with this question.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: I don't—

Travis: You could do what I do. Completely forget about a deep love you had and move onto something else.

Griffin: Oh yeah.

Travis: And become deeply invested in that, both financially and mentally. Talk about that for six months, make it your whole deal. But then what's that? You don't care about that thing anymore, you've moved on to a new purpose in life.

Griffin: A new cool thing.

Travis: Be it blacksmithing, be it baking, be plant-keeping, fishkeeping, an electric guitar you bought yourself and you promised you would learn.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then you never picked it up again. Somethin' like that, you know what I mean.

Griffin: There—

Travis: So, you just aren't into mountain biking anymore.

Griffin: There's something about... bikes though.

Travis: Oh?

Griffin: `Cause I feel like lots of people bounce around shit, and then they'll hit bikes.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: And then they'll get kinda stuck there. And—

Travis: Well scientists don't know how they work. That's what Justin told me, scientists don't know how bikes work.

Justin: Yes, that's true, we don't know how bikes work.

Griffin: [stammers] Uh— Are we— We really gonna gonna do this on the podcast? `Cause it's outrageous.

Justin: I'll talk to you about it off-mic, I'm just sayin' we don't know how bikes work. You know... We don't. So I'm sorry Griffin, I didn't mean to bring the whole energy of the show to that, but we don't know how bikes work.

Griffin: It's outrageous that that could be true.

Justin: It is true.

Griffin: People—

Justin: We don't know exactly know how bikes stay upright. We don't know how that works.

Griffin: Okay. If that's true, then nothing science has accomplished so far means a hill of beans.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: If we can't— I'm— Like if we can build a large hadron collider that can discover the god element in a million-mile-long sort of turbo tunnel, and launch two particles at each other at the speed of light and see what the fuck happens when they collide, but we don't know how a bike works, our priorities are so profoundly fuckin' out of whack. Like let's get to the bottom of this before I get back out on my beautiful steed.

Justin: We tried, it was too hard, we did somethin' else. We did different science.

Travis: How would you feel thought Justin if someone said, "Yeah, we came out with a brand new, I don't know, the 2025 Mitsubishi. We don't know how it works. [chuckles] But!"

Griffin: "It goes so fast guys, we got no fucking—! It goes from zero to 60 in .1, we don't know how the fuck it does it! So get out there."

Justin: I would feel the same way I felt when I found out we don't know how bikes work, which is bad. Pretty bad. [chuckles]

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: It felt bad, yeah.

Justin: I would feel bad about it, I would feel bad about this. Here's something you could do is bring in a bent-in wheel to work.

Griffin: Oh nice.

Travis: Mmmm.

Justin: And then you're like, "Can you believe this?."

Griffin: [chuckles] Uh-huh.

Justin: "Again?"

Griffin: "Never again!"

Travis: Oh, "Never again."

Griffin: "Never again with this fucking bi-wheeled bastard."

Travis: Oh. You come in on Monday, you're looking so down. Your coworker's like, "What ha— What's wrong?" And you're like, "Well, the neighborhood— Like the kind of street punks we've been kind of bullying about their mountain biking finally challenged us to a race, and we said the loser would never bike in this town again."

Griffin: Yup.

Travis: “And it turns out, even though we thought they were just kind of an underdog, you know kind of ragtag group, they banded together, they beat us, I’m never allowed to mountain bike in this town again.”

Griffin: “And I can’t go— I can’t... go against that. Like.”

Travis: “I can’t go against it. That’s the street rules, man.”

Griffin: “They’ll kill my family.”

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: “I can’t do that.”

Justin: I kinda thought it would be like racing for ownership, Travis, you’re saying they’re racing—

Travis: No, yeah.

Justin: — to be banned from—

Griffin: From biking.

Travis: 2003’s Eric von Denton challenged them—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: — to a downhill race. And it’s so important in this, you’re the bad guys. Because—

Griffin: Yeah, absolutely.

Travis: The good guys win, that good guys have to win. So if you guys are the good guys, you’re still able to ride in this town again.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You have to lose, while Eric von Denton, his long, beautiful locks flowing in the wind, his ragtag group of friends, they band together, they beat you in the mountain bike race, you're— You can never ride in this town again.

Griffin: I went mountain biking once with my friend Alex, when I was in middle school. I borrowed our fri— my friend Andy's bike so that I could go and ride on that big dirt hill behind that... [clicks tongue in thought] Kroger. And there was like a jump back there. Maybe it was a K-Mart, I don't know. It's on route 60.

Travis: Oh, yeah yeah.

Justin: Yeah, K-Mart.

Griffin: And they had like a little—

Justin: Used to be a K-Mart, now it's a Dollar Tree.

Griffin: They had a little dirt ramp that you could like jump off of. And so I did, I jumped it, and I like just became separated from the bike in the air, and I landed and I broke our friend Andy's bike pretty bad, and I tore a hole on my butt of my pants. And then do you guys know what happened?

Travis: What?

Griffin: I wasn't asked to do it... ever again.

Travis: Now listen, I also just wanna say Griffin...

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: "I broke my" and then the rest of that sentence being "friend Andy's bike, and I tore a big hole in the butt... of my pants."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Are both the best way those sentences could end.

Griffin: Yeah yeah yeah.

Travis: Given what had happened.

Griffin: Yeah. "I broke my wiener bone and tore a hole in my balls."
[chuckles] "And—"

Travis: Now we're just doin' some mad libs about what could've happened!

Griffin: "Andy's bike was O-K."

Travis: "And the butt of my pants doubled in thickness." [laughs]

Griffin: I don't know what I—

Justin: [singing] "Doubled in thickness!" [normal] Listen, do you think that— [wheezes]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Do you think that if you went mountain biking once and you borrowed a bike from your friend and you did the coolest stunts that are dangerous to you and the bike, they would say, "No no no, I heard about like when Griffin did this before. You're banned. You're banned from being with us."

Travis: Well, you would have to fuck up. You can't do the toughest tricks and land them.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: No no no.

Griffin: No. I did land!

Justin: You have to break the bike and yourself.

Griffin: I am not still suspended in the air above the dirt track behind the K-Mart. I did land.

Travis: Now was there not a part of you Griffin, 'cause this is my thing of like, "Hey, you know what I just figured out? I'd love to watch you do that."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "That sounds like a fun thing for me to observe."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "But not participate in."

Griffin: I wish I had footage of it. It was the dumbest thing I've ever done, because it is— Usually if I recognize that I don't have the required skill to do something that could hurt me if I do a bad job of it, I'll just go ahead and not do—

Travis: You think that's when that started?

Griffin: Even— And in fact sometimes, if I am confident I have the skill to do something but there's a chance I'll get hurt if I fail it, I'll still kinda sit that one out. This is the one time where I really went wild, but this was pre-cellphones.

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: And so— Otherwise I would've for sure hit Worldstar. For sure.

Justin: For sure.

Griffin: Should we tell our friends at home something about the MaxFunDrive?

Justin: Yeah, Griff.

Travis: I would love to.

Justin: It's a time where once a year, we come to you and say, "Hey friend. We'd really appreciate if you gave us a little help in paying for these here shows that you enjoy so much."

And— But it's not just us asking for you to pledge, five or 10, \$20 per month. No no no, we're saying thanks with some fantastic gifts.

Griffin: That's right, Justin.

Justin: Just— If you can pledge \$5 a month, I'll start you off with 600 hours— More than, plus, of bonus content that you can enjoy at your leisure. You don't have to do it all in one sitting, in fact we would advise against it.

Griffin: You'll die. Can you tell 'em what we did for *MBMBaM* and *TAZ* this year?

Justin: So, it's kind of like a double-header, double album from *My Brother, My Brother & Me*. We made up a game for our Dad to play, based on Plato's Rave.

It is a sort of one-shot RPG that we came up, and then for *The Adventure Zone*, we ran the game, all three of us, as the GMs and Dad playing it. And it is... outrageous.

Griffin: It's outrageous.

Travis: I just wanna say too, at \$10 a month, not only do you get that but you also get your pick of an enamel pin from the shows on the network. And these are some really great pins. There's—

Griffin: There's a *MBMBaM* one that says [chuckles] "Bring back Farm Wisdom" on it, so you can die on that hill... with a— in style.

Travis: I really enjoy, I believe, is this the *Wonderful!* pin, with 8-bit Griffin and 8-bit Rachel. Is that you guys?

Griffin: Yes, it's us in *Stardew Valley* style. Yes.

Travis: I love that so much.

Griffin: That's the direction we went with that. There's a bunch of stuff, and this whole week, we are going to be doing like streams basically

every day. I started things out last week with a Fuser stream with custom songs DJed together, gonna do that again this week when you hear this.

And on Friday at 1pm Eastern time, we're having a pizza party on our YouTube channel to celebrate with everyone. So make sure that you come by for that. We'll send this thing out with a bang.

We got stuff happenin' every day, we got stretch goals that we're doin'. If we can get people to join us at certain numbers. I have no fuckin' clue what we are at [chuckles] as we do this second episode, 'cause again we're a week out.

But you know, we're doin' a lot of stuff, and we are able to do all that stuff because we have a team of people who help us, and we are able to have a team of people who helps us because of the MaxFunDrive.

Straight up, there is a one-to-one correlation between the support you show us in the MaxFunDrive and the amount of stuff and quality of stuff that we are able to make for you.

Justin: They really—

Griffin: And that is a wonderful thing.

Justin: Having people who are supporting the show that you are helping to pay really helps us to be more consistent. Like Rachel, our editor, has saved so much time that we're able to use actually making stuff.

Amanda, who handles so much for us, is able to take stuff from our plate, because of you and your generosity, that allows us to just make stuff for you, basically all the time. Any time we're awake.

Travis: And thinks— thanks to your support, last year I was able to quit my job at Circuit City.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: True.

Travis: I was protecting the abandoned buildings from being taken over by rats.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And it was— It kept me up most nights.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Both 'cause it was a night job and 'cause it was so terrifying.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But I did— I was paid my weight in dead rats, which was nice.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But now, thanks to your support, I was able to quit that job and do podcasting full time. And now, I just kill rats for fun.

Griffin: If you don't—

Travis: Not for work anymore, I've been able to find the love and joy in it again, and that means so much to be, to be able to kill rats with passion once more.

Griffin: If you don't join us.

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Travis will eat a hundred rats. If you do join us, Travis will eat a hundred rats, but for... him. For him. On his terms.

Travis: If I do it, I will do it in a reluctant, begrudging manner, if we don't do it. But if we do it, I'll do it in an enthusiastic, excited.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Like every day is a gift kinda manner.

Griffin: Right. So, maximumfun.org/join is where you can go. If you're already a member, you can upgrade your membership. If you do it during the drive, you can get the next, you know, pledge level of gifts.

If you don't wanna jump up that high, you can boost your membership by, you know, a buck or two. That is hugely helpful. Or you can be a first-time member and get access to a ton of great bonus content, and help us continue to make and grow these shows, we mentioned this last week.

There's certain parts of the media business that are not doing good at all right now, namely advertising. And so more than ever, we are relying on the Max Fun members to help us out and help us make this show.

And you all have been absolutely amazing in the past, and have helped us out so much, and so we just ask for your support this year at maximumfun.org/join. Can we go to the Wizard's house? He's got a cloud hut.

Travis: Let me get my shoes.

Griffin: Okay. And then take 'em off, he hates shoes. He's—

Travis: Well yeah, but the in between. I need 'em to get there. He's not gonna like my bare feet, like my RA in college.

Griffin: He'll love that.

Travis: Who prided himself on walking around barefoot for three years.

Griffin: No, he loves it. He loves—

Travis: He loves it?!

Griffin: Yeah, he's—

Travis: He loves when I— my feet have become hooves?

Griffin: He likes it when he's like— He'll stay stuff like [in a witchy voice] "The nastier the toes, the—" [normal] And he won't say anything else, he'll just be like, [in a witchy voice] "The nastier the toes!"

Justin: Just raises his eyebrows 30 times.

Griffin: And he raises his eyebrows real big. And his eyebrows are fuckin' crazy.

Travis: But he didn't come up with a second half of the rhyme.

Griffin: No.

Travis: So, he lets you fill it in.

Griffin: Um...

Travis: "The tastier the rose," that's not it.

Griffin: No, that's not it. Um... I just— Quick update, last week we did repeat a wikiHow that we had done back in episode 590. So that's on me, that one's on me. That's—

Travis: Did we say new things?

Justin: Did we do new jokes?

Griffin: I fuckin' hope so, man. That was like two years ago though, so I don't feel like, super bad about it, but I do feel a little bit bad about it. Hopefully this—

Travis: Now I'm curious what would happen if you like overlaid them, how many similar—

Griffin: What if it was one for— What if it was perfect.

Justin: [chuckles] Perfect one for one.

Griffin: [chuckles] This one is sent in by Diana, thank you Diana. It is "How to Be a Spy Kid."

Travis: How to be a spy kid?

Griffin: "How to Be a Spy Kid. Spying may be fun and exciting, but it's not easy! A good spy kid is hard to find. To be the next—"

Travis: Yeah! That's the point!

Griffin: That's a really, really good double entendre. "To be the next undercover agent, you'll need to get trained, create a team, learn mission protocol, hide the evidence and enhance your spying technique through various spy activities!"

Travis: Can I just say, thank you Griffin for opening this door for me to step through. I've been wanting to say this for a long time. I don't think—I think that the next James Bond, they need to pick a much more plain looking person.

Griffin: Oh wow.

Travis: They always pick the most handsome like interesting looking person.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: And if that guy walked into a room in like a tuxedo and a big like flashy— I'd be like, "That's a fuckin' spy!"

Griffin: And you know—

Travis: "That guys a spy."

Griffin: You know what's—

Justin: Spies don't always— Like you guys seem to have this vision of spies like they're always hiding in the rafters and sneaking around. And like spies go into rooms and they're like, "Everybody, dig me," and everybody's like they dig them for the wrong reasons. They dig 'em—

Griffin: Ohhhh.

Travis: Right.

Griffin: I getchu.

Justin: You know what I'm sayin'? Like you want—

Griffin: So, it's not that the spy is hiding, it's that everybody wants to kiss the spy.

Travis: I'm saying that if— If Pierce Brosnan.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Circa *Goldeneye*, rolls up to me and he's like, "Yeah man, isn't it wild, talking about arms dealing and stuff. You're not an arms dealer, are you?" I'd be like, "Look at you!"

Griffin: "Look at you."

Travis: "Look at you! I'm not gonna talk to you! You're clearly a spy!"

Griffin: You're— The fact that you highlighted circa *Goldeneye*, as if to suggest that Pierce Brosnan isn't the sexiest he's ever been—

Justin & Griffin: [simultaneously] – right now.

Travis: But you could literally say that at any moment of his career, Griffin. I'm saying that Pierce Brosnan circa *Goldeneye* was— I mean compared to other James Bond movies, where it got whimsical and weird with the gadgets. I'm saying that James Bond walks in, sits down.

Griffin: Is— Yeah.

Travis: The handsomest James Bond that has James Bonded.

Griffin: Everyone's gonna be watching Pierce Brosnan.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Oh yes.

Justin: All eyes.

Griffin: No matter what he's doing. 'Cause they—

Travis: Is what I'm saying.

Griffin: They want to kiss him so much.

Justin: When I see someone as attractive as that, I'm gonna assume their motives are pure.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Oh!

Justin: That their heart is clean, and that they wish me only the best.

Griffin: Yeah, cool. We'll see how that goes. I was gonna say normal looking spy was kind the plot of *Johnny English*, but hey this might be a unpopular opinion... Fuckin' Rowan Atkinson looks hot as hell in that movie too.

Justin: Yeah, I mean you gotta give him.

Griffin: Like you can't tell— There's somethin' about that mantle. There's something about being a spy that is just kinda hot.

Justin: I know he's a complicated guy.

Travis: I think they did it best with Simon Pegg, Simon Pegg in *Mission: Impossible*, where I'm like nice looking. Not bad to look at.

Griffin: Pullin' it off, yeah.

Travis: But he's just in a bar or whatever? Yeah. Okay. Cool, man.

Griffin: Whatever you say, dude. "Organize your team." Can it be the three of us?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I think we miss—

Travis: Three brothers solving crimes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Investigating.

Justin: We have a really weird... Like our Venn diagram just looks like a slightly out of focus circle. [chuckles] Like it's not—

Griffin: We're all pretty good at most of the same stuff, yeah.

Justin: The same stuff, yeah.

Travis: I feel we have things that we all bring different, you know, skill. Like Griffin's the tech guy, I'm like the face man, and Justin runs errands for us and picks up stuff that we need for—

Griffin: Justin's strong. Like Juice— Like if we need someone to like pull down a pipe.

Justin: Travis is strong though.

Travis: Yeah, oh I'm pretty strong, you're right.

Justin: Yeah, I'm not sure what— Oh, you're strong, but you're strong for a podcaster. You know what I mean? Like I'm saying like the ways we distinguish ourselves, if you zoom out, we're basically the same guy three times.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I don't think that's—

Travis: Well one of us has purple hair, so don't [chuckles] clump me in there, buddy.

Griffin: Justin can make Chex Mix really good.

Travis: That's true, and he can write cheques.

Griffin: Yes. [wheezes]

Travis: I've seen him. His cursive is—

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Cur— Travis mentioned cursive. This is something I wanna do on *McElroy Family Clubhouse*, by the way.

Griffin: Oh, is write—

Justin: We should see how many cursives you remember.

Griffin: Fuck off. There's no way I put myself on blast like that.

Travis: I've got all of 'em.

Justin: Sorry what?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You do all the cursive letters?

Griffin: Travis, I— Listen.

Travis: Yes, I can.

Griffin: I struggle—

Travis: We've done this on the show before too!

Griffin: I struggle with the capital "G," and it's my own first initial of my first name.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: And so—

Justin: Don't know how to write 'em.

Griffin: Capital "G."

Justin: Let's see, what has he got?

Griffin: That's actually really good.

Justin: I mean it's good. It's really good.

Griffin: That's actually really good.

Justin: I don't wanna play this game anymore.

Griffin: Fuck!

Justin: It's too good.

Griffin: Damn it. "Form your team."

Travis: That's "E," that's the "Z," baby. That's the tough one.

Justin: Whoaaa.

Griffin: Yeah, that is.

Justin: That's weird.

Griffin: That's really good, Travis. So. "Spying is safer and more fun with two or more people. Your teammates can back you up and can help complete your mission faster (with the right group of people, of course!). If you decide to be alone, that's okay, too." Thanks, wikiHow.

Travis: Oh. Okay.

Griffin: "Secrets can definitely be kept a lot easier when it's just you." Wow.

Travis: "If you need to kill your teammates to keep a secret, that's okay. That's fine."

Justin: Yeah, you need 'em in the beginning. You may not need 'em at the end.

Griffin: You should— Okay.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay, this is good. Okay. "You should have one teammate who knows a lot about technology, such as computer shortcuts and knowledge of gadgets."

Justin: Okay, that's Griffin.

Travis: Griffin knows a lot of those where you can like hit three keys at the same time—

Griffin: Oh yeah.

Travis: — and make like a special like symbol pop up when you're typing.

Griffin: I can format a Google Doc in like a minute.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: "The tech member can also make maps," sure. "Plans," sure. "Charts," mm-hmm. "And notes about the secret mission." I can do all that shit in Google Docs, and I can make it look pretty as fuck.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: With a bunch of cool shortcuts. "Being clever doesn't hurt either. If you have a friend that's great at thinking outside of the box and is quick on his or her feet," Justin!

Justin: Okay.

Travis: Oh.

Justin: Alright.

Griffin: "Add them to the mix."

Justin: I think Travis wanted to be that guy. I heard his—

Travis: I kinda thought it was me with the neurodivergence and everything, but that's fine. I'm just kind of the ADHD one. Do they have that there, Griffin? "And have a friend with ADHD"?

Griffin: No, but it does have if you “have a teammate that's strong, like for heavy lifting or hard tasks that involve strength.” Does ADHD make you like fit— like strong?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Like physically strong? Oh shit.

Travis: It does, yeah.

Justin: Don't feed into that stereotype, Travis.

Travis: My muscles are hyperactive. [chuckles]

Griffin: Oh, cool.

Travis: And so yeah— Yeah, I just use my hyperactive muscles.

Griffin: “But don't let just anyone into your team; you need skilled spies, not grunt men.” Uh, thank you very much! This spy organization could use with a few grunt men.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I think.

Justin: I actually don't wanna do all the grunt work.

Travis: I don't think they're called “grunt men.” [laughs] Is that what it says in the article? “Grunt men.”

Griffin: It says, “grunt men.”

Justin: “Minions” is trademarked.

Travis: Oh right.

Justin: [chuckles] So they can't call `em that.

Griffin: We've got... the hacker. We've got... the wheel man. Justin also has a car.

Justin: I do.

Griffin: So Juice can be the wheel man too. We've got the muscle, and then we've got... grunt man. [wheezes]

Justin: [giggles]

Griffin: Grunt Man One and Grunt Man Two. These guys, they aren't very quiet. They make a lot of noise everywhere they go.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Anything they do, they make so much fucking noise. But... if we need a copy made of something.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Um...

Travis: Drycleaning.

Griffin: You know, we can't— What— You want me to—

Travis: A lot of suits! And those suits get dirty. Have you seen the shit? Like smashin' through walls, swimmin' through like sewers and gettin' blood all over 'em.

Griffin: Yeeees. Putting bomb on the bottom of swimming pool. Like I'm dirty and I need Grunt Man One to run to Brooks Brothers and get me a new kit.

Justin: I would also like people cheerin' for us.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: That people that are like supporting us when we're low. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Huge.

Justin: Like that—

Travis: And maybe havin' lunch ready when we get back? You know what I mean? Would be nice.

Griffin: Yeah. Saying nice things.

Justin: You're not appreciating their skillset at that point, Travis. I think you're asking a lot for—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Like we should hire a professional chef.

Travis: Uh Grunt Man graduated from Culinary Institute, bud. Maybe you should take some time to get to know Grunt Man One.

Justin: If Grunt Man One wanted to go into that business, into that field, he would've pursued it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: He gave that life up to work for us.

Travis: He does eventually, Justin. He needs seed money to start his own restaurant!

Griffin: It's why he's doin' this, Juice.

Justin: I don't want to be an in-between. I don't wanna be a waypoint for lost souls. I want someone in this organization that is like... will die for... I mean, will die for us. I mean will die for us.

Griffin: [wheeze] Whoa.

Justin: Like he would be killed instead.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Of us.

Travis: No, he'll do that.

Griffin: Yeah. It won't be me.

Travis: But eventually he'd like to make crème brulé professionally.
[chuckles]

Griffin: Just wanted to say. Just wanted to say, this is a little life hack for you at home. If you're the hacker... you're not gonna get stabbed.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Like you're at your computer. The worst thing that can happen is that the government counter-hacks you, and your computer shut down. It doesn't— It isn't like screen explodes and you fucking die.

Justin: Everybody on your team gets killed, you like literally hop on your phone, LinkedIn.

Travis: Ha, yeah.

Justin: Anyone of like 30 Silicon Valley jobs are just sittin' there, no problem.

Griffin: Hacker's cool. Hacker's cool 'cause your whole team can get squished by the elevator or whatever, and all you do is you just [imitates closing sound effect] close the laptop, stand up, put on your baseball hat, walk into the crowd.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That's fucking cool.

Travis: Griffin, that's exactly what I was picturing! That [chuckles] exact moment, that's how clear that— "Welp." [laughs]

Griffin: "Welp." Clunk. Hat.

Travis: "Welp, that's gonna do it." [wheezes]

Griffin: Walk, go. Next job, Dairy Queen.

Justin: The hacker is safe, but I've watched a lot of movies in my day, and I will just say this as a blanket statement. If at any point the villain shows up where your hacker is and kills them, you're done Jack.

Griffin: You're done, yeah.

Justin: You're done, okay. They are way too bad for you.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: You are not going to win over them.

Griffin: That's— [chuckles]

Justin: They are several steps ahead.

Travis: The hacker is like the medic in like spy like Geneva Convention. Like, "You killed the hacker? No. No! Why?"

Griffin: "He was just trying to—"

Justin: "You just— Like now—"

Travis: "What are you talking about? You killed Grunt Man One and Grunt Man Two and I get it."

Griffin: That's why I love to keep a grunt man around where the hacking takes place.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Just—

Travis: Just circling the hacker? [chuckles]

Griffin: To have a little bit of help.

Travis: Like, "Ehhh..."

Griffin: Yeah. Soooo. "Set up a hierarchy for your team." This is where it's gonna get nasty.

Travis: Where's the kid part?

Griffin: Be a kid.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Griffin: Keep your grades up.

Travis: [chuckles] Okay.

Griffin: "Set up a hierarchy. Make sure each of your members has a purpose. They'll feel like they're a valuable part of the team, too, if they have a specific role." And now let's make them feel less valuable by setting up a hierarchy. "A captain who is in charge of the team." Hacker can't be that.

Justin: No.

Travis: No.

Justin: No.

Griffin: So, it's one of you—

Justin: No no no. Well, now wait a minute. That's a good thought, Griffin. They always make the leader the person who's going in and doing a lot of the punching and codes.

Griffin: Ohhh.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: But I have the map.

Justin: Yeah. Why don't you just be the leader?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Oooh.

Justin: And that way if we all get killed, you go find other people that love the same kind of crime.

Griffin: That's cool.

Justin: And you can— You know what I mean? Continue our mission.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I just assumed it's because, as we've established, the hacker is the safest. So, it's kinda hard for the captain to be like, "Okay, Tom Cruise's character. Now walk towards that guy with the big gun, and you're gonna punch him."

Justin: Yeah, but that's what I'm saying sets us apart.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Is like the cap— the hacker is the leader, so you can't stop us.

Griffin: Yeah, so when we got to SpyCon, they'll be like... We'll do a panel on like innovations in spy hierarchies, and we'll be like... Walk up there and be like, "Hey, what's up? I'm..." I won't have a— I'll say like a cool name.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Like Clover Knife.

Travis: Electro Lizard.

Griffin: "I'm Electro— [chuckles] I'm Electro Lizard, and I'm a spy." And they'll all say, "Hi, Electro Lizard." [chuckles]

Travis: [wheezes]

Griffin: And then...

Travis: [giggles]

Griffin: I'll— And then I'll be like— Yeah.

Travis: "I've been a spy for six months now."

Griffin: I'll be like—

Travis: "Congratulations."

Griffin: I'll be like, "Check this shit out, guys. I'm the hacker and the captain!" Everybody's gonna stand up and applaud me, one for my bravery, and two for this incredible idea. I have the map, of course I should be the one telling people where to go.

Travis: Oh! The— A window breaks. Pshoo! A shot rings out. Grunt Man One dives between Electro Lizard and the window! Grunt Man One goes down.

Griffin: Just how I planned it.

Travis: [gasps]

Griffin: As the captain of the team. "A vice-captain to help the captain make decisions and take their place if they are ill." Spy kids.

Travis: If they're ill?

Griffin: [laughs] "Guys, it's me, Captain Hacker. Electro Lizard? I had some Buffalo Wild Wings last night."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "And..."

Justin: [giggles]

Griffin: "It is for that reason that Grunt Man Two is going to sub in today as vice-captain. He ain't hackin', like no-one's hacking on this mission, okay?"

Travis: Okay.

Justin: "We don't have a hacker."

Griffin: "Like you guys are gonna be hacking free, but you will have a guiding light in the form of Grunt Man Two."

"A tech person in charge of the computer, surveillance equipment, and maps." That's not in the hierar— That's just like a job.

Justin: Yeah, it's a ra— Yeah, it's not a rank. You don't get that—

Travis: It's weird that— That's what it tells you Griffin about how much we need to break up the hierarchy like established, that they would put that in the list of like, "And of course third on the list."

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: "The hacker." `Cause they're not...

Griffin: That's just how important the hacker is. Also says, "Make sure there are other spies at the base ready to back you up on your mission." Right, we have talked about grunt mans.

How many kids... are going to be part of this opera— Like if someone's like, "Hey, do you wanna join our spy club?" and you're like, "Yeah, sure," and then you show up to the first meeting and there's 46 kids there.

Travis: Yeah. And they're like, "We're sending out three of you. Two of you are grunts, the other 41, you're gonna rotate in if we need you, so just—"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "— stay here in Bill's backyard."

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: "We'll yell."

Justin: Yeah, there's so many spy kids that want the opportunity, and I only know about two spy kids, so what is happening with all these other spy kids?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: These potential spy kids.

Griffin: It's a—

Travis: We don't see a lot of, like in the *Spy Kids* movie, a lot of desk spy kids. [chuckles] Where like the spy kids come back and file their paperwork with the other kids that just work desk jobs.

Justin: There should be an HR spy kid. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "Oh yeah? Maybe most of the time I'm learning about dinosaurs and biology, but by night, I talk people through interpersonal problems that they're experiencing in the workplace."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "Equip your team members with your—"

Justin: "If I get killed by the bad guys, something's gone terribly wrong."

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "Something's really wicked fucked up."

"Equip your team members with your spy gadgets. Remember, being a spy team means helping each other through thick and thin." That doesn't have any fucking—

"If you have a few gadgets to your name, dish them out evenly." Oh, okay. "The most— The more successful your team is, the more successful you and the mission are." Yeah, man.

Travis: I disagree. If you have— Let's say you have four members, right? And everybody can carry two gadgets.

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And you have four gadgets. Yeah, you could give each person one gadget, or have two people loaded down with gadgets, and they're leading the way.

Griffin: Or! One person! With a lot of gadgets!

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Yes! That's what I'm saying.

Justin: The gadgeteer of the group!

Griffin: The gadget guy is—

Travis: Tom Cruise has most of the gadgets, because when Tom Cruise comes face to face with a bad guy, he doesn't wanna be like, "Now I'll use the mask," and Benji's like, "Oh, I've got the mask."

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And it's like, "What? Fuck!" [chuckles] "Can you bring it to me?" "I mean not in the next like 20 minutes."

Justin: That would— That is awkward when they're divvying up the gadgets in the beginning.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: And Tom Cruise is like, "Well, I will be doing most of the..."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "Different things. I mean, it'd be fair."

Griffin: "We've got—"

Travis: And Vin Raimis is like, "But I wanna have the gun this time."

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: "But I said I want the gun this time. You said last time I could have the gun this time. You promised, Ethan."

Griffin: [in an English accent] "And this here's a special marshmallow that when you eat it, it makes you better at hacking."

"I need that!"

You don't need that Tom Cru—! Why do you need that, Tom Cruise?!

Travis: "Aw, a wing suit that lets me jump off a motorcycle?"

"Yeah, can I have that?"

"You're sitting in a car with a computer!"

"You don't know."

Justin: "I want it."

Griffin: [in an English accent] "Right here we've got a very realistic looking Tom Cruise mask."

"I need that!"

Travis & Justin: [chuckle]

Griffin: "I need that to look like Tom Cruise!"

Justin: "You are Tom Cruise, Tom Cruise."

Griffin: So some of the examples they give, "Intercoms, cell phones, video equipment, iPods and other communication devices, walkie talkies, whistles, cameras." That's a smart phone. That's a smart phone.

Travis: There's also like four different versions of the same thing in there. Intercom and walkie talkie, you say?

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Communication's key.

Griffin: And says here "Katana or other similar long blade." Uhhh...

Justin: As a spy?

Travis: 'Scuse?

Justin: As a spy kid?

Travis: 'Scuse?

Griffin: It doesn't actually say that.

Justin: Oh.

Travis: [whispers] Oh my god.

Griffin: But if it did— But you know me, like.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Like Electro Lizard.

Travis: No, just take one of your parent's knives for that.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Pretend it's a katana. Nothing bad can happen.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: You're a spy kiiiiid.

Griffin: My whole aesthetic as Electro Lizard is very like cyberpunk, so I do have a katana and I do have... a shotgun that has been sawed off to a degree where it is not functional. [laughs]

Justin: [wheezes] He went too far!

Griffin: He sawed—

Travis: He put the— He put— The part that's for the cartridges just fall right out. [chuckles]

Justin: It's awful, he kept bringing it back to us and Travis and I were like, "Well that's pretty rad."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "But I bet you could get even radder." And he's like, "Yeah yeah, just kidding, just kidding, let me try again." And then [wheezes] he came back eventually and it was just a handle.

Griffin: [chuckles] It was just a handle.

Travis: Just a stock.

Griffin: There was no trigger.

Travis: Honestly, he cut off past where the trigger is.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: [giggles]

Travis: So now it's just a wooden kind of like triangle.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: He was really unsure when we got to that point. We were like, “No no no, take a little bit more off of it.”

Travis: “Yeah, a little bit more.” And the worst part is it didn’t even happen once, so it’s not like two halves.

Griffin: No.

Travis: It’s in ten chunks of shotgun now.

Griffin: No, it’s—

Travis: Can’t even glue it back together or [wheezes] nothin’. [chuckles]

Griffin: I made some special rings out of those lost barrels.

Travis: [wheezes]

Griffin: The flint— The little hammer is still on there, so now it’s a pretty kickass fidget ball I’m packing.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Now, “Training as a Spy. Practice using your gadgets. Do several practice runs in a location other than the actual mission to test and get used to your gadgets and clothes.” Clothes?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Your clothes didn’t—

Justin: You’re in spy clothes.

Travis: We gotta seal `em.

Griffin: “Dress the part. Two things to consider: you either want to go totally spy-worthy or totally incognito. It’s more fun to dress like a spy, but sometimes it makes more sense to blend in. Which is appropriate for your next mission?”

Travis: So when they say, "spy-worthy," they're talking like suit like.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Tuxedo, right? They're not saying—

Griffin: Yeah, there's a picture here and it's— One half of it is a boy in sweats and a green T-shirt, and the other one is a boy who looks like a Blues Brother, and... I bet you James... Bond, when he is—

When he goes somewhere and he's like [in an English accent] "You're going to a party on the beach, James. And there's a drug guy who's there. You need to find him and get the key." And he's like, "Okay, I'm gonna wear my fancy suit!" And they're like [in an English accent] "James..."

Travis: Mm-mm.

Griffin: [in an English accent] "No, James."

Justin: "If you'd rather..."

Travis: "But the jacket has like stuff sown into it to make—" "Yeah, but you're gonna look like a dingus."

Griffin: "We've got these board shorts for you, James."

Justin: [chuckles] "It's a Tommy Bahama board shorts."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: "It's a brand deal we worked out. Things have been hard for the government lately, with all the cutbacks and what not, so you're branded now."

Griffin: "This is a—"

Justin: "Please wear these crocs."

All: [chuckle]

Travis: “Now, what’s amazing, James. We’ve taken your shoes and we’ve altered them. We’ve cut tiny holes in them, and made them out of a soft, cushy thing. They’re breathable now, James. We call them Crocodiles.”
[chuckles]

Griffin: “Learn to code data. Encrypt your written messages with a simple code. They can be as simple as substituting a letter for another or you can use numbers for letter or makeup entirely new symbols that correspond to the alphabet.”

Travis: Eh, sounds kinda hard.

Griffin: That’s a pretty wild escalation of code technology.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Of “Switch the letters around, use numbers instead of letters, or come up with your own alphabet.”

Justin: It’s also weird that their advice in doing this made-up thing is to do a real, very hard thing. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Like if I wanted to put in the work of learning to code and get one of the many great jobs in computer technologies.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Justin: I maybe don’t need to be a spy kid. If I have that kinda eth— like ethic, maybe I’m just gonna go get a great job.

Travis: Like this wikiHow article should be titled like, “How to Talk Your Kids Out of Playing a Game They Wanna Play.”

Justin: Yeah, like, “Oh, spy kid huh?”

Travis: Where it’s like, “Oh yeah! You wanna— Oh, you wanna pretend to be a spy. Okay, sit down and let me teach you about cyphers, huh.”

Justin: "It's a lot of work to be a spy kid."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: "Now can you repeat this symbol?" It's like, "Aw, I don't know, man."

Griffin: I'm pretty sure the code they are talking about here Justin is like... hiding secret messages and not... like practicing JavaScript.

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: I don't think that that's the type of...

Justin: That makes a lot of sense.

Griffin: 'Cause maybe I'm worried that you think that like JavaScript—

Justin: Makes a lot of sense.

Griffin: — and like making coding to make computer softwares happen involves secret— like secrets. Like a lot of secrets.

Travis: Doesn't it?

Justin: If you're doin' it right.

Griffin: 'Kay.

Justin: We call 'em "Easter eggs," in the bizz.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You should do this next one, whether you're a spy kid or not. "Practice escaping from places."

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, everybody should be doin' that.

Griffin: "A locked room? Not a problem. A tree? Easy. A crowded room? Don't even worry about it." A crowded locked tree?

Travis: Now we're talk—

Justin: Mmm...

Travis: Full of Kebler elves. [chuckles]

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Travis: The secret ingredient is children!

Griffin: Good luck. "You and your spy team can escape from just about anywhere – including sticky situations."

Justin: [giggles]

Travis: Gross.

Justin: Even a sticky situation?

Griffin: "Never use elevators – if you get trapped in one, you're trapped."

Justin: Uh-oh.

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: This must pain you to read, Griffin.

Griffin: "Stairs allow for more exits." [laughs]

Justin: It's true. You can get out any way with stairs.

Griffin: Yeah man.

Justin: Go up `em, down `em.

Griffin: Down `em.

Justin: Side to side.

Travis: Whatever, man.

Justin: Under.

Griffin: Down—

Travis: You could jump over the railing, from the higher one to the lower one.

Justin: With a stair—

Griffin: Climb—

Justin: — you could do that cool thing—

Travis: Whatever, man.

Justin: — where you fall down the holes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: In-between the stairs.

Travis: Oh, that's so cool. I love that thing.

Griffin: Go down the middle of it real fast, dead. Is another way out.

Travis: Slide down it like Mary Poppins. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, cool.

Travis: You don't see that in enough spy movies.

Griffin: It—

Travis: "We've gotta get out of here. Weeee!"

Griffin: "It will be easier to escape places (and to sneak into them) if you learn how to pick locks." A bit of a sinister tone. A bit of a sinister twist that this wikiHow article has taken.

Travis: It's actually incredibly easy to pick locks.

Griffin: It's not hard.

Travis: It is difficult to pick locks in a way that you don't break them.

Griffin: Mmmm, `kay.

Travis: But you can brute force any lock. Sleep tight!

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: [in a gruff English accent] "Get used to talking in different voices."

Travis: [in an English accent] "I'm Daddy Pig!"

Justin: Different accents, that's important. That's it.

Travis: That was my Russian accent.

Justin: So far, all this is applicable to people who wanna be podcasters. Every single part of this.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: This will make— [chuckles] Yeah, learn to pick locks, have lots of voices. "This will mainly be helpful if you're using cell phones or walkie-talkies. Code names are a necessity, too."

[in a gruff English accent] "Peppa! I tapped into the FBI mainframe!"

Travis & Justin: [giggle]

Griffin: [in a gruff English accent] "Phwoar."

Justin: [quietly] [imitating Peppa Pig] "Thank you, Daddy."

Travis: [in an English accent] "I'm such an expert at hacking."

Justin: [imitating Peppa Pig] "Can I go and splash in the muddy puddles now, Daddy?"

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: [in an English accent] "Okay."

Justin: That's the code for—

Travis: [in an English accent] "Fuck! Fuck it! Let's do it, Peppa!"

Justin: [laughs] That's the code for "kill every motherfucker in the room."

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: [cackles] Alright. "Choose your mission."

Justin: [imitating Peppa Pig] "I'm a lady, it's a busy shot, Daddy."

Griffin: "Choose your mission. For example, you might figure out where your guardians hid something, figure out the password to a friend's club."

Travis: My guardians?

Griffin: "Or find out which neighborhood dog has been dirtying your dad's prized lawn." And then do something about it.

Travis: [chuckles] Oh my 'lanta.

Griffin: "There's no mission too small, either."

Travis: Is there a mission too big?

Justin: There's no mission too small, but there might be a mission too dog murder for the spy kids—

Griffin & Travis: [simultaneously] Yeah.

Justin: — to take it on, I don't feel like that's in their bailiwick.

Travis: I would like to think that if I were a spy child.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: That I would not worry about missions being too small for me.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But rather is a government official rolled up and was like, "Hey. I heard that you did a great job figuring out which dog was shitting in your dad's yard."

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "Well, we need you to kill Obama 2."

Griffin: "Whoa."

Justin: "Whoa."

Travis: "He's—" Yeah.

Griffin: Shit.

Travis: "He's— Obama Jr's out there [wheezes], we need you to get him and take him out."

Griffin: "Why?!"

Justin: "Why?"

Travis: "Well, 'cause you're the best spy kids on the block and—"

Justin: "No no no, we get that."

Griffin: "Right, but why does Obama 2—"

Travis: "Sorry, what's that?"

Griffin: “What’s wrong with Obama 2?”

Travis: “He’s like the second— Oh sorry. [wheezes] I meant Osama 2.”

Griffin: Travis Patrick.

Justin: [wheezes] [in a high-pitched voice] Travis, you didn’t.

Travis: It’s the MaxFunDrive 2024.

Justin: [giggles]

Travis: Listen, it’s been a long day. [wheezes]

Justin: No, that—

Griffin: This is the third thing we’ve recorded today! That does not give you permission to make a goof `em up like that—

Travis: [weepily] I meant “Osama.”

Griffin: — in MaxFunDrive 2024.

Travis: I meant “Osama.”

Justin: Of course you did. That would—

Travis: Obama 2’s fine.

Justin: Such a confus—

Travis: He’s an evil clone, what about that?

Justin: It was such a confusing few moments for me.

Travis: [wheezes]

Griffin: [chuckles] It really was.

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: I'm not sure if the listeners heard it, but I feel like they should have.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "Cover your tracks." Travis. "Make sure you and your teammates don't leave anything behind."

Travis: [laughs] I'm so sorry.

Griffin: "Destroy any footprints on dirt or mud," or audio recordings. "And destroy any accidental fingerprints if you notice some. All papers at the scene should be recycled and definitely no clothing or anything else personal left for curious eyes to find."

Justin: Mm.

Travis: Kill any witnesses.

Griffin: Take away text message. "Delete text message, emails, phone calls... And it's likely no one will see these, it's always better to be safe than sorry."

Travis: Scrub... your existence.

Griffin: Uh, I'm gonna see. "Rendezvous after the mission with your team." This is the best fuckin' part, guys.

Justin: Mm.

Griffin: This is the best fucking part. The— You meet in front of the Bellagio, in front of the water fountain. Now, they're not spies, nor are they kids, those Ocean's guys.

Travis: Can they crack open some Coronas? Like at a grill?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Not kids. Not kids.

Justin: Spy kids can drink. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: [chuckles] Oh, okay.

Travis: That's the rule.

Justin: That was I the Constitution.

Griffin: Spy kids can drink.

Justin: [wheezes] Right!

Griffin: McGruff said as mu—

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin: McGruff was like—

Travis: [imitating McGruff the Crime Dog] "That was cool!"

Justin: That's the—

Travis: [imitating McGruff] "I think we can all agree, spy kids can drink."

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin: That's right.

Justin: [imitating McGruff] "You've earned these suds. Ruff!"

Griffin: [wheezes] [imitating McGruff] "You wanna drink beer like your cool friend McGruff? Then sign up!"

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin: [imitating McGruff] "To be a secret child cop."

Travis: [imitating McGruff] "Be a narc, today!" [chuckles]

Griffin: [imitating McGruff] "Yum, yum, yum, yum, yum! You guys won't believe how good this shit tastes, but spies only!"

Justin: [laughs] [imitating McGruff] "Of course if you were to tell us a few secrets about your friends, that might make you an honorary spy!"

Griffin: [chuckles] I'm gonna skip fo—

Travis: [imitating McGruff] "Rrrruff!"

Griffin: I'm gonna skip forward to the end here.

Justin: [chuckles] Okay.

Griffin: "Do not tell any non-spies what you're up to. Only friends who are being initiated into the program should be told about your activities. Otherwise, keep it secret and low key. Some might be jealous and some might blab your secret. The fewer people who know, the better."

Travis: But if all spies are acting like that...

Justin: [gives a low whistle]

Travis: How do you know who's a spy and who's not?

Griffin: The fact that you have to ask that question, Travis.

Travis: Fuck.

Justin: Yeah. Just shows how ignorant you are.

Griffin: Like, if I need to recruit someone.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I'll do it in like a cool hacker way.

Travis: Like how? Can you show me?

Griffin: I'll do— Like they'll be driving. Aw shit, it's kids. They'll be in the back seat of the car that their parents are driving, and they'll drive by a

road sign. And I'll hack it for just a second, and it's like, "Toby, open your email."

Travis: Hey, Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: I'm not a spy, you shouldn't have told me that. You're goin' to jail.

Justin: [from a distance] Ohhh!

Griffin: Well that was an e— That was— Fuck! I can't— But wait, you are a spy, Travis.

Travis: Fuck, yeah.

Griffin: You pa— I passed.

Travis: I am. Yeah.

Griffin: You are actually a spy.

Travis: But I was tryin' to catch you.

Griffin: But our listeners— Our listeners are also now spies. Fuck.

Justin: Yeah, sorry you're all spies.

Griffin: We made the club way too big, dudes.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, we did. That one's on us.

Justin: Time to pay your dues to the club, and the best way of doin' that is goin' to maximumfun.org/join. And signing up.

This is our last pitch, and I wanna say first of all, like whoever you are, thank you all so much for your support and for— over the years. For helping make it possible for us to do this. This is a good time of the year

to remember to say thank you for that, so thank you, thank you, thank you.

If you— If you don't yet support the show and you get something out of it, and you can, obviously not everybody's in a place to do it. We understand that completely. But if you can, even pledging five bucks a month is really— helps us out a lot, because those donations combined make it possible for us to pay the people who help us to make the shows.

To... make time for it every week, to do these— the other streams and other things that we do. It's all thanks to your generosity and we really, really appreciate it. And— But it's not just hollow generosity, we got gifts, Trav.

Travis: We do have gifts. I just wanted to say one more thing real quick where like maybe you're sitting there and you're thinking like, "Eh, I'm thinking about it, I want to, I'm not near my computer— I don't know." And the fact of the matter is is that you might feel like, you know, \$5 a month, where like, "I'm one person, whatever," right?

But the thing is is the show, the network, all of this is based off of everybody coming together to show that support. Individuals, right. This isn't a big corporate structure where we have like, I don't know, people financing the whole thing, one person making the decisions.

This is everybody as individuals giving whatever they can, and coming together as one group, to build out the whole network. So every single person matters.

Justin: It's a co-op, you know? This isn't a podcast network that's gonna be bought out by a big media company and then summarily dispatched. It's your podcast network, because you helped make it happen.

So if you would like to join that group, at \$5 a month we said you get the bonus content, and that's all great. But at \$10 a month, we've got some beautiful pins for you, based on the different shows, you can choose whatever one you like.

At \$20 a month, you have a choice to make, a big one. We have a Max Fun bucket hat, with the Maximum Fun logo on it, and if you are someone

whose head is of a size, perhaps, a certain carriage that perhaps a 7 and 1/8ths hat would not fit you, we have—

Travis: Maybe your head would laugh at that size hat, right?

Justin: Stop it, Trav. We have a bandana that's this games on the go set, that's a bandana that turns into a checker or chess board. And you can play— It has little pieces, and you can play on your bandana. How charming is that? But of course the gifts are just the thank you, the real thing is please help us to make these shows, 'cause we love doing it.

Travis: I wanna say one more thing that I think is very incredible and people might not realize. It's rare, not just in podcasting but in a lot of different things, to be able to say this, but even though we are on this network, we own this show, right? We own *Adventure Zone*, this is our thing.

Max Fun supports our show and says, "Make the show you guys wanna make, that people wanna hear." We're not like getting notes from them, they don't tell us— None of that stuff, right? They purely exist to support us and facilitate like us making the thing that we love, the thing that we want to, and that is rarer and rarer these days.

Justin: Yeah, for sure.

Travis: To be able to like have the opportunity without getting, you know, I don't know, without having to make cuts or having to, you know, change things. And so support us and you also support the network. It goes both ways, and the network supports us. And it's just a very lovely thing to be a part of.

Griffin: Yes. And we appreciate you. Maximumfun.org/join is the link you can go to. You can start a new membership there, you can boost yours or upgrade it to a new level, you can get the prizes.

One new thing this year is that you can also pay up front for the whole year, if you don't wanna worry about having a recurring charge on your card that you have to, you know, keep in the back of your mind. Just pay up front for the whole year, and that, you know, obviously helps the same amount and helps us a great deal.

All of that is at maximumfun.org/join. If you are sitting at a computer or at a screen right now... and you think you might wanna do this, then do it now, before you forget.

Justin: Please.

Griffin: Because we don't have much more time running here in this year's drive. And we have no idea how we're doing so far.

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: So the tone of this is... We're a bit in the weeds, but we appreciate you so much.

Travis: And more and more people tell me like, "I listen to it with my kid in the car," and if that's true, they should really have a membership too.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: I mean at this point, they're kinda just wheezin' the juice.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Off of yours, so maybe sign them up for on to they're not freeloading anymore, you know what I mean?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: And don't pay for theirs.

Justin: No no no.

Travis: No.

Griffin: Like this is an important life lesson.

Travis: They need to get a job.

Griffin: Right, exactly. Thank you to Montaigne for the use of our theme song "My Life (Is Better With You)." It's a great track, a great tune, and we are so, so grateful to be working with Montaigne, and... do we have a wish for Fungalore?

Justin: Of course we do.

Travis: Uh, we do.

Justin: I'd be happy to. This is from... BR, age 6.

Travis: [hums]

Griffin: [sings a "wah" note softly]

Justin: "I wish we didn't have to sleep."

Griffin: [chuckles]

[theme music fades in]

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy.

Travis: I'm Travis McElroy.

Griffin: I'm Griffin McElroy.

Justin: This has been *My Brother, My Brother & Me*. Kiss your dad square on the lips.

[theme music plays]

[ukulele chord]

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